# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2243
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2005
LAND EROSION IN ASSAM
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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) the extent of land in the country suffering from soil erosion and degradation, State-wise;

(b) the causes for the growing erosion and degradation;

(c) the central aid sought and given to State Government to prevent erosion and restore and damage caused;

(d) whether the Government proposes to introduce a legislation to curb this menace; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Statewise extent of various types of degraded land is annexed.

(b): The main causes for erosion and degradation are: (i) water and wind; (ii) faulty agricultural practices; (iii) deforestation: (iv) jhum cultivation; (v) frequent floods; (vi) uncontrolled grazing; and (vii) mining operations etc.

(c): The Government of India is implementing various programmes namely (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rain-fed Area (NWDPRA), (ii) Soil Conservation Programme for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), (iii) Watershed Development Projects in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), (iv) Reclamation of Alkali Soils(RAS), (v) Drought Prone Areas Programme(DPAP), (vi) Desert Development Programme(DDP) and (vii) Integrated Wasteland Development Programme(IWDP) for erosion control and development of degraded lands. During last three years (2002-05), 62.126 lakh ha. area have been developed at an expenditure of Rs. 3287.35 crores under the above programmes. In the State of Assam, during the same period under these programmes, 3.70 lakh ha area has been developed at an expenditure of Rs 78.59 crore.

(d) & (e): Land is State subject and therefore steps to introduce a legislation to curb this menace are to be taken by State Governments.

Annexure

EXTENT OF VARIOUS TYPES OF DEGRADED LANDS IN THE COUNTRY

(Area In Lakh Hectare)

| S.No. | State/UT | Water erosion | Wind erosion | Ravines | Salt Affe-cted | Water Logging | Shif-ting culti-vation | Degr-aded forests | Special prob-lems |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 103.54 | - | - | 2.40 | 3.39 | 1.50 | 11.48 | - |
| 2 | Arunachal Pradesh | 1.58 | - | - | - | - | 2.10 | 22.86 | - |
| 3 | Assam | 13.34 | - | 1.93 | - | 4.50 | 1.39 | 8.83 | - |
| 4 | Bihar | 32.39 | - | 6.00 | 0.04 | 7.07 | 0.85 | 10.21 | 9.00 |
| 5 | Goa | 1.35 | - | - | - | - | - | 0.65 | - |
| 6 | Gujarat | 94.62 | 7.04 | 4.00 | 10.42 | 4.84 | - | 4.84 | 0.10 |
| 7 | Haryana | 15.35 | 14.00 | - | 5.26 | 6.20 | - | 0.56 | 0.25 |
| 8 | Himachal Pradesh | 10.75 | - | - | - | - | - | 8.39 | - |
| 9 | Jammu & Kashmir | 6.73 | - | - | - | 0.10 | - | 2.10 | - |
| 10 | Karnataka | 102.25 | - | - | 4.04 | 0.10 | - | 7.64 | - |
| 11 | Kerala | 15.77 | - | - | 1.17 | 0.61 | - | 1.80 | - |
| 12 | Madhya Pradesh | 155.10 | - | 6.83 | 2.42 | 0.57 | 1.25 | 41.00 | - |
| 13 | Maharashtra | 175.89 | - | 0.20 | 5.34 | 1.11 | - | 15.92 | - |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14 | Manipur | 2.94 | - | - | - | 3.60 | 0.80 | - |
| 15 | Meghalaya | 5.48 | - | - | - | 2.65 | 2.89 | - |
| 16 | Mizoram | 2.87 | - | - | - | 1.89 | 1.34 | - |
| 17 | Nagaland | 2.77 | - | - | - | 6.33 | 1.28 | - |
| 18 | Orissa | 27.71 | - | 1.13 | 4.04 | 0.60 | 26.48 | 18.07 | 2.95 |
| 19 | Punjab | 9.14 | - | 1.20 | 7.18 | 10.90 | - | 0.93 | - |
| 20 | Rajasthan | 188.41 | 156.92 | 4.52 | 10.00 | 3.48 | - | 10.61 | - |
| 22 | Sikkim | 2.58 | - | - | - | - | 0.45 | - | |
| 22 | Tamil Nadu | 32.42 | - | 0.60 | 1.04 | 0.18 | - | 3.98 | - |
| 23 | Tripura | 0.45 | - | - | - | 1.12 | 1.22 | - | |
| 24 | Uttar Pradesh | 58.98 | - | 12.30 | 12.95 | 19.80 | - | 12.12 | 15.00 |
| 25 | West Bengal | 7.64 | - | 1.04 | 9.86 | 21.80 | - | 2.69 | - |
| 26 | U.Ts. | 1.21 | - | - | - | 0.01 | - | 2.28 | - |
| Total: | (a)lakh ha. | 1071.26 | 177.96 | 39.75 | 76.16 | 85.26 | 49.16 | 194.94 | 27.30 |
| | (b) m. ha | 107.2 | 17.8 | 3.97 | 7.6 | 8.5 | 4.92 | 19.5 | 2.73 |